

Message Text

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73

ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /013 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: EUR/RPE:REBRESLER:CC

APPROVED BY: EUR/RPE:JTMCCARTHY

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R 272022Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION OECD PARIS

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FOLLOWING REPEAT THE HAGUE 952 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN DUBLIN LONDON LUXEMBOURG PARIS ROME TOKYO EC BRUSSELS
NATO 23 FEB

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDAK, EINV, PFOR, PGOV, NL

SUBJ: THE LOCKHEED AFFAIR: DUTCH CONCERNS

1. AS WE HAVE REPORTED, THE LOCKHEED DISCLOSURES HAVE GENERATED EXTENSIVE LOCAL COMMENT AND CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION. THEY HAVE ALSO CAUSED DEEP CONCERN THAT THE NETHERLANDS AND ITS INSTITUTIONS COULD BE FUNDAMENTALLY AFFECTED BY PROCEEDINGS IN WASHINGTON ESSENTIALLY BEYOND DUTCH CONTROL. WE ARE TRANSMITTING BELOW THE FULL TEXT OF BRIEF BUT PUNGENT EDITORIAL IN THE FEB 20 ISSUE OF THE HIGHLY RESPECTED AND THOUGHTFUL NEWSPAPER "NRC HANDELSBLAD," WHICH CAPTURES THE FLAVOR OF THE GROWING UNEASE TO WHICH THE LOCKHEED AFFAIR HAS GIVEN RISE AND OF THE FRUSTRATION ARISING FROM THE APPARENT INABILITY OF THE DUTCH AUTHORITIES SO FAR TO GET EVEN AN APPARENT HANDLE ON THIS AFFAIR.

2. BEGIN QUOTE: IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT WASHING-
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TON AT PRESENT MISUNDERSTAND EUROPEAN RELATIONS. THIS IS CON-

FIRMED BY THE DECISION OF THE SENATE LOCKHEED COMMITTEE NOT TO MENTION FOR THE TIME BEING ANY MORE NAMES OF WITNESSES AND PEOPLE WHO OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN CONCERNED IN THE AIRCRAFT TRANSACTIONS.

FOR WEEKS THE SENATE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN HEARING VARIOUS WITNESSES WHO IN THE COURSE OF THEIR STATEMENTS HAVE UTTERED AN ALARMING SERIES OF ACCUSATIONS. THIS HAS CAUSED GREAT UNREST IN THE NETHERLANDS, JAPAN AND WESTERN GERMANY. PUBLIC OPINION HAS BECOME CONFUSED, POLITICAL CONTRASTS HAVE SHARPENED, AND IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT TO RESTORE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE WHICH IS PRESENTLY BADLY SHAKEN.

HOWEVER, WE ARE STILL IN THE STAGE IN WHICH THE FIRST CONVINCING PROOFS WILL HAVE TO BE PRODUCED. SEVERAL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING HOLLAND, HAVE TAKEN THE CHARGES VERY SERIOUSLY AND HAVE OPENED THEIR OWN INVESTIGATION. THE SENATE COMMITTEE AND THE AMERICAN TREASURY SECRETARY, HOWEVER, HAVE CHOSEN THIS POINT TO MAKE DECLARATIONS TO THE EFFECT THAT FOR THE TIME BEING THEY WILL NO LONGER COOPERATE.

THIS IS AN UNTENABLE STANDPOINT. THE COMPLICATIONS CONCERNING THE PRODUCTION AND DELIVERY OF AIRCRAFT, AND THE POSSIBLE CORRUPTION THAT WENT WITH IT, RESULT FROM THE FACT THAT THE AMERICAN AND WEST EUROPEAN SOCIETIES ARE VERY CLOSELY INTERTWINED.

IN THIS INTERDEPENDENCE, THE SENATE COMMITTEE IS NOT JUST ANY KIND OF PARTY WHICH CAN WITHDRAW THE MOMENT IT WANTS TO, UNCONCERNED ABOUT THE CHAOS IT IS LEAVING BEHIND. THE RELATIONSHIP ENTAILS A MORAL OBLIGATION. THAT MEANS THAT THE SENATE COMMITTEE AND OTHER AMERICAN AUTHORITIES CANNOT STOP HALFWAY, BUT HAVE TO KEEP ASSISTING THE EUROPEAN INVESTIGATION COMMITTEES SO THAT THERE WILL AGAIN BE A SITUATION IN WHICH GUILT AND INNOCENCE WILL BE CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED. END QUOTE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, BRIBERY, AEROSPACE INDUSTRY, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE048110
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/RPE:REBRESLER:CC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760075-0777
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976023/aaaaacie.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <07 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE LOCKHEED AFFAIR: DUTCH CONCERN
TAGS: BDIS, EINV, PFOR, PGOV, US, NL, LOCHKEED
To: OECD PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006